



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

April 15, 2003
CN 20-03

Dear Administrators of the School Nutrition Programs,

Since the beginning of KidsCare, schools have maintained a critical role in helping families obtain health coverage. In fact, school systems are still the primary venue for KidsCare to reach out to the communities. In 2000 President Clinton paved the way for schools and eligibility determining agencies to share information about Medicaid and KidsCare eligible children. This facilitated a unique partnership in Arizona between schools and KidsCare during the 2000-2001 school year. Since this partnership began over 31,000 families have returned responses to the KidsCare survey. This partnership continues to play a vital role in the lives of our children.

Health insurance promotes access to needed health care, which experts confirm contributes to academic success. For this reason, it is essential to continue in these efforts to educate and support families in obtaining health insurance. I am requesting your support in sending the attached KidsCare form (preferably on yellow paper) along with the application for Free and Reduced-Price meals home with each child who attends your school. Once the forms have been completed by the household and sent back to the respective school, please forward to:

KidsCare
Mail Drop 500
920 E. Madison
Phoenix, AZ 85034
1-877-764-5437 (toll-free) OR (602) 417-5437

We highly encourage all schools to continue this partnership with KidsCare. These efforts contribute significantly to the rising number of children being insured and benefit both the schools and the children. On behalf of the Arizona Department of Education and KidsCare, we sincerely thank you in advance for your continued support for the 2003-2004 school year.